

sections on an optical fiber they can be made by the different methods claimed in claims 14-20. The example by the examiner which is supposedly different to form a product "such as (1) heating a glass preform and drawing out a cylindrical core (2) then depositing a cladding layer onto the core" is indeed within the method claims as a member of the Markush group of claim 17. The examiner has thus not shown that the steps described within the method claims are not required to make the products described with the product claims 1-13. Certainly it is not clear how the method claims could produce something not covered by the product claims.

The various products claimed are produced from among the various method variations described in the method claims. The process and product diffusers are thus closely associated with one another, and should therefore not be separated in any final allowance of the invention.

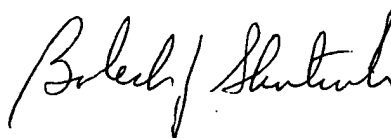
To comply with the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.143, the product claims, 1 through 13 are elected to be prosecuted first.

With these remarks and amendment it is believed that the requirements of 37 CFR and the MPEP have been answered and the disclosure and claims are now in condition for examination. Consideration is respectfully requested. An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited. Thank you.

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